



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Calvin Ball, Chairperson
District 2
Jennifer Terrasa, Vice Chairperson
District 3
Greg Fox
District 5
Mary Kay Sigaty
District 4
Courtney Watson
District 1

Minutes (approved) Legislative Work Session January 24, 2011

The work session was called to order by Chairperson Ball at 4:37 pm in the Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City.

Members present: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa and Courtney Watson.

Transfer of Appropriation Ordinance No. 2-Fiscal Year 2011 - Transferring a total of \$27,500,000 to capital project C0282, Government Service Campus, from capital project C0214, Category Contingency Fund

Council Bill No. 1-2011 - Authorizing and empowering Howard County, Maryland to borrow money in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$27,500,000 on its full faith and credit, and issue and sell its bonds therefor, to be used to pay costs of Capital Project No. C0282 (Government Services Campus), more particularly described in the County's 2011 Capital Budget, and to pay costs of issuance of such bonds; authorizing the County to issue bond anticipation notes or to enter into installment purchase agreements for payment of portions of such costs; and to levy taxes upon the assessable property within the County sufficient, together with other available funds, to pay the debt service on such obligations; and providing for and determining various matters in connection therewith

Bob Smith, KNLB, summarized the market analysis offered in support of the proposed acquisition of the Ascend One Building by the County. Jim Irvin indicated that the County is conducting a review of mechanical systems, a roof survey and a Phase 1 Assessment.

Council Bill No. 3-2011 Introduced by Greg Fox/Co-sponsored by Courtney Watson - To establish a Veterans' Commission; specifying its composition and duties; requiring a certain annual report; requiring County agencies to cooperate with the Commission; and generally relating to veterans and active duty personnel in Howard County.

Mr. Fox explained the differences between the bill and an earlier iteration and offered thanks to the Veterans' organizations in attendance. Members discussed the purpose of the proposed Commission, member selection and appointment process. Jessica Feldmark explained the role of the County Executive in the appointment of an Executive Secretary. The Members will consider any amendments that are proposed.

Council Bill No. 56-2010 - Clarifying certain sign requirements specific to Downtown Columbia under certain conditions; allowing signs of a certain size in Downtown Columbia; allowing certain signs in Downtown Columbia under certain conditions; allowing certain signs in the County rights-of-way in Downtown Columbia; allowing for certain signs to be illuminated in Downtown Columbia; defining certain terms; amending certain definitions; making certain technical corrections; and generally relating to sign requirements for Downtown Columbia

Council Resolution No. 138-2010 - Adopting Downtown-wide Design Guidelines for Downtown Columbia

Marsha McLaughlin and Phil Elgelke, Chair, Design Advisory Panel, called on for additional information. Matters discussed included: goals and objectives of the sign legislation; and types of signs (marquis, monument, directional [vehicle and pedestrian], directory, digital, projecting and tall building). There was a review of draft amendments related to size, location and definitions. Planning and Zoning tasked with the preparation of additional draft amendments. Randy Byrd, Sensory Interactive, a consultant to Howard Hughes Corp., made a power point presentation of digital media.

The work session was adjourned at 6:47 pm.